Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05758 080740Z ACTION EA-12

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R 080650Z MAY 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0251 INFO USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL SUE HONG KONG 5758

DEPT PASS EA/PRCM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS PINT CH TW

SUBJECT: PETITIONS FOR PERSONS RESIDENT IN PRC

REF: HONG KONG 5625 AND 5713

- 1. REFTELS REPORTED SHARP INCREASE IN ARRIVAL HONG KONG OF PRC EMIGRANTS AND PROPORTIONATE INCREASE OF PRC APPLICANTS COMING TO CONGEN TO INITIATE IMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING.
- 2. WE HAD VISIT TODAY FROM AMCIT WHO PETITIONED (FIFTH PREFERENCE) FOR TWO BROTHERS IN NANKING. SHE TOLD US THAT EXIT PERMITS FOR BOTH BROTHERS AND RESPECTIVE FAMILIES HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND THEY SHOULD ARRIVE HONG KONG WITHIN NEXT MONTH. PROBLEM IS THEIR FIFTH PREFERENCE PRIORITY DATES ARE AUGUST 15, 1977 WHICH IS NOT CURRENT FOR ISSUANCE. TOLD THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO WAIT IN HONG KONG SOME MONTHS, AMCIT WAS MOST UPSET, SAYING THEY HAVE NO RELATIVES HERE, CANNOT AFFORD LONG WAIT IN HOTEL, AND OUR FORM LETTER HNK-13 IMPLIED THAT IMMIGRANT VISAS WOULD BE AVAILABLE UPON ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG.
- 3. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PROBELM. FORM HNK-13 WAS DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN EXIT PERMIT PROCESS AND WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSUMED EXIT PERMIT PROCESS WOULD TAKE SO MUCH TIME THAT ANY PRIORITY DATE WOULD BE CURRENT. HOWEVER, CUT-OFF DATE FOR FIFTH PREFERENCE ISSUANCE IS PRESENTLY MARCH 15, 1977 AND COULD CONTINUE TO LAG IN FUTURE OF EVEN BECOME UNAVAILABLE TOWARDS END FISCAL YEAR. ASSUMING THAT OTHER PREFERENCES UNDER CHINA CHARGEABILITY WILL REMAIN CURRENT, QUESTION IS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

RESOLVE THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH FIFTH PREFERENCE DELAY.

4. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE THREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM. (1) ONE WOULD BE TO REWORD HNK-13 LETTER FOR FIFTH PREFERENCE APPLICANTS TO WARN THEM IN ADVANCE THAT THEY FACE POSSIBLE PROCESSING DELAY IN HONG KONG; (2) ANOTHER WOULD BE NOT TO SEND HNK-13 LETTER TO FIFTH PREFERENCE APPLICANTS UNTIL PRIORITY DATE BECOMES CURRENT; (3) FINALLY, WE COULD ALLOW PRESENT HNK-13 SYSTEM TO STAND AND REQUST DEPT SEEK HUMANITARIAN PAROLE FROM INS/CO ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS FOR THOSE FIFTH PREFERENCE APPLICANTS WHO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG, FACE LONG WAIT BEFORE PRIORITY DATE BECOMES CURRENT, AND WOULD SUFFER HARDSHIP DOING SO.

5. DEPT'S AND USLO'S COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SHOESMITH

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